

Harvey's Views on the Use of the Circulation of the Blood. John G. Curtis, M. D., LL. D. Published by Columbia University Press, New York, 1915. Price \$1.50 net.

In many ways the book written by John G. Curtis on "Harvey's Views on the Use of the Circulation of the Blood" is remarkable. It is worth reading if only for the copious and well chosen translations from Harvey's writings, for Harvey wrote in Latin, not in English.

Previous to Harvey many shrewd observations had been made on the circulation, and even a complete demonstration of the lesser or pulmonic circulation by Servetus, but no one had set forth both the lesser and the greater circulation as Harvey did. He made the subject so clear, and supported his statements with so many cogent observations and experiments, that no unprejudiced reader of his work can refrain from giving him credit for a full and complete discovery.

There is much more in the book, however, than the mere circulation of the blood as it is understood now-a-days. There was then the question of innate heat, which is now entirely forgotten.

Where did the heat of the body come from? The food might be cold, and so might be the surrounding atmosphere, and yet the blood was hot. The heart was looked upon as the source of this heat, and it was assumed to be so ardent that its emanations had to be cooled down by the air entering the lungs. This heat, it was assumed, was imparted by the heart to the blood, and by it was carried to all parts of the body. Harvey differed from this Galenical view, but, of course, could not depart from the idea of innate heat. He had to assume as his predecessors had done, that this heat was innatus, or born in and with the being; it was inseparable with this being, began at its birth and ended with its death. Harvey saw that this heat could not be generated by the hollow muscular organ, the heart, and he guessed it to be produced in the blood itself, in the cavities of the heart. This, he was careful to say, he did not assert positively but only advanced as a thesis. He then added that "Whatever might be brought forward to the contrary by learned and upright men without scurrilous language, clamor or contumely I shall be glad to know, and whoever shall do that will earn my gratitude." It was in this open minded spirit that Harvey, in his seventy-first year, wrote to his able antagonist, Jean Riolan, dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris. One may imagine what pleasure and intelligence would have lit up his thoughtful eyes and fine features if he could have received, even at that advanced age, a clear demonstration on the subject of heat, such as could be given by a well appointed modern physicist.

A delightful portrait of the great Englishman is included in the book. D. W. M.

American Public Health Protection. By Henry Bixby Hemenway. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co. Publishers. 1916.

This little work consists of a description, available alike to the physician and to the layman, of the new public health, that is to say, of public health measures inspired and wrought out from scientific principles as contrasted with the political public health of a generation ago—the hit or miss sanitary measures applied by the political health officer.

The work takes us through the urgent needs of the modern community for scientific public health administration: it gives a good description not only of the local administration but of those national and state health agencies of which few physicians, and for greater reason, fewer laymen, have any conception of.

The basic sanitary campaigns from which many deductions are drawn are here, as in other works, the great work of Gorgas on the Isthmus of Pan-

ama, and the work of Surgeon General Blue in the plague eradication campaign of San Francisco and California.

A few quotations are apropos:

"It is the opinion of most sanitarians that several of those national bureaus should be combined into one department under the leadership of a member of the cabinet, who should be, not a physician, but a sanitarian of broad experience, and with constructive ability." "Its establishment is opposed by certain commercial cliques, who have all found that their business has been hampered by the light of publicity. The opponents are especially the patent medicine manufacturers and 'commercial doctors,' whose practice depends upon misleading the people. Their principal supporter in congress has been a member of the Christian Science organization. One of the strong evidences for the need of such a department is found in the hampering influences of the Secretary of the Treasury when the Marine Hospital and Public Health Bureau were first attempting to cope with the bubonic plague in California. That hampering influence was then instigated by the commercial influences of San Francisco. It seems strange, therefore, that the people of that state who have suffered so severely from this misguided commercial influence, should permit their senator to continue his opposition to an honest and scientific administration of the work of preserving the public health."

"Since this movement has taken more definite form, the Public Health Service has been making rapid developments. It is the contention of the friends of that service that it should be made independent, and that the other agencies should be added to its force, without making other special changes, simply raising the surgeon general of that service to the ranks of a cabinet officer."

The work is written in a fluent style as shown by the above quotations and can easily be read in the course of an evening, and the time thus spent will be amply repaid by the acquisition of a number of new thoughts or rather felicitous expressions of old ideas which can be used in the course of public health work. G. M. C.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis. By Maurice Fishberg, M. D., Clinical Professor of Tuberculosis, University and Bellevue Hospital Medical College; Attending Physician, Montefiore Home and Hospital for Chronic Diseases, New York. Octavo, 639 pages, with 91 engravings and 18 plates. Cloth, \$5.00, net. Lea & Febiger, Publishers, Philadelphia and New York, 1916.

This book as indicated in the preface, is intended to supply the general practitioner with information concerning the etiology, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment. It contains 620 pages of text.

Of special interest are the chapters on Tuberculous infection and epidemiology, preparing the reader, as they do, for the significant statements made under the heading of Phthisiogenesis. To those who have not closely followed the investigations of Romer, Much and others, the author's conceptions of phthisiogenesis will seem almost revolutionary. The distinction between tuberculous infection and phthisis in the adult is clearly drawn. Basing his argument on the theory that phthisis is a late manifestation of tuberculosis acquired during childhood, a theory now generally admitted, the author presents the view formulated by Romer that phthisis is really a manifestation of immunity against tuberculosis, which has been acquired by the infection in childhood. Attention is called to the recent experimental proof of immunity in animals, which are abundant, and which have entirely changed our conception of tuberculous infection, showing as they do, the difficulty and even impossibility of reinfection of the infected animal. The author freely quotes Romer, Hamburger and other investigators in this field whose epoch-making work